

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to (b) above.

(d) CIL management and the Trade Unions are currently engaged in Operationalising certain agreements which are a part of the National Coal Wage Agreement-VII. Both the parties are likely to conclude their negotiations soon and thereafter the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VIII could be constituted.

**Fuel supply agreements for the coal companies**

111. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has directed that coal companies should enter into fuel supply agreements only as to 80 per cent of sanctioned long-term linkage quantity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new guidelines would reduce coal supplies by about 3.9 lakh tonnes per annum in the units of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per the policy decision taken by the Government, coal supplies to cement plants and fertilizer units are being provided at a satisfaction level of 80% of the long-term coal linkage. This decision was arrived at in consultation with the Cement Manufacturer's Association and applied uniformly to all cement/fertilizer plants irrespective of their source. However, satisfaction level in respect of power generating units has not been reduced from their long-term linkages.

(c) and (d) With the introduction of the Fuel Supply Agreement norms, there is reduction of supply of about 3.89 lakh tonnes of coal in respect of cement units located in Andhra Pradesh. However, these norms aim to provide fair and equitable distribution of the available coal to all industries. The consumers, who are unable to meet their full requirement due to introduction of norms, can procure the same from other available sources namely e-marketing and imports.